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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
TOMOYASU NAKAMURA ET AL : EXAMINER: WONG, L.
SERIAL NO: 09/926,027 :
FILED: AUGUST 16, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1761
FOR: MASKING AGENT

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AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Office Action dated February 26, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendment and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 9 and 13 as follows:

DI 9. (Twice amended) An orally ingestible product lacking a bitter flavor comprising a material having at least one of an odor and a flavor other than a bitter flavor, and an agent for masking said at least one of an odor and a flavor other than a bitter flavor comprising a nontoxic salt of gluconic acid, wherein the flavor is selected from the group consisting of astringency, pungency, sourness and flavor of powdered milk, and wherein the odor is selected from the group consisting of soybean smell, vegetable smell, smell of garlic, smell of